

Office of Assistant Treasurer U. S.,

Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 6., 1878

Sir:

I enclose herewith two broken Nickels
(5^c pieces). Will you please inform me whether or
not they are counterfeit pieces and return?

Respectfully

Augustus

Asst. Treasurer U.S.

Superintendent

U.S. Mint

Philadelphia

Pa.

Office of Assistant Treasurer U. S.,
CINCINNATI, OHIO,

Nov. 6, 1880

A. W. Stern
Assistant Treasurer U. S.

Sends 2 books
\$4 for Examination.

Tassany's opinion
filed herein

No. of Enclosures,

Recd Nov. 8th 1880.

Answer that the copies were
given - but that they had
been in the firm - evening
books + short opinion -

The Mint of the United States

AT

PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,

Assay Department, Nov. 8, 1880.

The ²broken nickel pieces from the U. S. Treasurer at Cincinnati, present some features not often observed, either in good or bad pieces. They are both genuine, having the perfect lettering which counterfeiters have not reached, in such pieces. But they are extremely short, or brittle; and the table, in one especially, is densely black, enough of itself to render them unfit for circulation.

Both those abnormal properties must be due to overheating; we think not at the Mint, but in the hands of an experimenter. That will blacken, & shorten, any good or bad piece. That the raised parts are white, is due to the rubbing of circulation, after the burning.

The legal mixture, 25 nickel, 75 copper, makes a harder alloy than the silver coin, but still shows some flexure in breaking.

The quickest test, so far, of a counterfeit nickel, is the poor lettering of W.F. in the legend.

W. E. DuBois, Assayer

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 122

[Letter One:]

[Abstract:] Sends 2 broken 5¢ pcs. for examination.

Office of Assistant Treasurer U.S.,
Cincinnati, Ohio,
November 6, 1880

Sir:

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Respectfully,
A.M. Stern
Asst. Treasurer U.S.

Superintendent
U.S. Mint
Philadelphia, Pa.

[Noted on back:] Answered that the coins were genuine – but that they had been in the fair – coming brittle & short grain –

[Letter Two:]

The Mint of the United States
At Philadelphia, Penn.,
Assay Department,
November 8, 1880

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The legal mixture, 25 nickel, 75 copper, makes a harder alloy than the silver coin, but still shows some flexure in heating.

The quickest test, so far, of a counterfeit nickel, is the poor lettering of WE, in the legend.

W.E. Du Bois, Assayer